

The Promise of Goodness

By Mansoor Ali Shah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

Baba and Mansoor sit under a large tree in their backyard. The afternoon sun casts a warm glow as a gentle breeze rustles the leaves. Mansoor watches an ant carrying a crumb, deep in thought.

Mansoor: Baba, what does it mean to make a promise?

Baba: A promise is a commitment, my son. When we make a promise, we should always try to keep it. Why do you ask?

Mansoor: Today at school, my friend Sami promised to share his toy, but then he changed his mind. It made me feel sad.

Baba: I understand, Mansoor. Keeping promises is important. Did you know that the companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made a very special promise to him?

Mansoor: Really? What kind of promise?

Baba: They promised to follow six important things. Do you want to hear them?

Mansoor: Yes, Baba!

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ asked them to promise:

1. To worship only Allah.
2. Not to steal.
3. Not to do anything wrong in secret.
4. Not to harm their own children.
5. Not to falsely accuse someone.
6. To always listen and do good.

Mansoor's eyes widen in amazement.

Mansoor: That's a big promise! Did they keep it?

Baba: Yes, they did their best. And the Prophet ﷺ told them that if they followed these promises, Allah would reward them. If they made a mistake and were punished for it, that would be a lesson for them. And if Allah hid their mistake, then it would be up to Him to forgive or punish.

Mansoor: So, if Sami promised something, he should have kept it?

Baba: Yes, keeping a promise shows honesty and trustworthiness. But if he forgot, you can remind him kindly.

Mansoor nods and thinks for a moment.

Mansoor: Baba, I want to make a promise too!

Baba: What will you promise, my son?

Mansoor: I promise to always tell the truth and to be kind to my friends.

Baba smiles and hugs Mansoor.

Baba: That is a beautiful promise, my son. And remember, Allah loves those who are truthful and kind.

Mansoor grins, feeling happy inside. He decides that tomorrow, he will gently remind Sami about his promise—not to scold him, but to help him be a better friend.